

**STATE OF NEVADA
MEETING OF
THE COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY**

Nevada Department of Education – Board Room
700 East Fifth Street
Carson City, NV 89701

**MEETING MINUTES
November 17, 2014**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** Chairman David White called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Roll call was read and the attendees present are as recorded below. Chairman White noted after the Roll Call was completed that the meeting had a quorum.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

David White, Commission Chairman
Mike Amie, Commission Member
Irene Chachas, Commission Member
Senator Mo Denis
Dale Erquiaga, Superintendent
David Flatt, Commission Member
Arnie Maurins, Commission Member
Nick Poulson, Commission Member
Ji Wang, Commission Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:

David Gustafson, Ex-Officio Member
Bruce Meissner, Commission Member
Assemblyman Paul Anderson

STAFF:

Dr. Kimberly Vidoni
Evelyn Barragan
Amanda Pinter

OTHERS PRESENT:

Alan Medeiros
Will Keady
Janice Towns
Robert Sidford
Daphne DeLeon
Brent Legg

2. THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman David White: Led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman White: Asked if there were any public comments from all groups. There were none.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF 9/8/2014 MINUTES

Commissioner Arnie Maurins moved to approve the 9/8/2014 minutes. Commissioner Ji Wang seconded. Motion carried.

5. PRESENTATION FROM THE NEVADA BROADBAND TASK FORCE

Chairman White: Opened by introducing Ms. Daphne DeLeon, chair of the Nevada Broadband Task Force (NBTF).

Ms. DeLeon: Began by thanking the Commission for the opportunity to discuss broadband and the Statewide Broadband Action Plan, which has been completed. She introduced Brent Legg. She presented for discussion written excerpts from the plan, which is 126 pages long and available online.

The NBTF was created in 2009 in response to funding made available from the Department of Commerce and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). States could provide a recommendation, through a review board, in terms of which projects best aligned with their states' needs. The NBTF was created in 2009 by executive order and re-established by executive order in 2011. The NBTF was tasked to identify and attempt to overcome barriers to equitable access to broadband regardless of location within the state and to serve as a clearinghouse and point of coordination. Facilitation and coordination have been the most important deliverables to have come out of the broadband initiative.

The broadband initiative consists of The Nevada Broadband Task Force, along with Connected Nation, Connect Nevada, the state designee. Connected Nation, Connect Nevada has procured money directly from the federal government to implement local technology planning groups, to do speed testing, to create an interactive, online Nevada broadband availability map and to create research in terms of how broadband is used and what its effect is for business, how Hispanics view broadband, where broadband is being accessed and the reasons for nonuse or non-adoption of broadband.

Ms. DeLeon discussed one large project, in which the Nevada Hospital Association is setting up a large network to connect hospitals and ensure they have sufficient bandwidth to fully adopt electronic medical health records. One of their business plans makes available their excess bandwidth to the communities.

Arizona and Nevada Tower Corporation (ANTC) was also a recipient of USDA funding and is big in rural areas. Some libraries have been able to leverage their work in rural counties, for example, in exchange for increased bandwidth at lower prices.

The NBTF and Connection Nation do not provide funding but rather facilitate communication between interested parties. Dollars invested in broadband get leveraged multiple times across education, economic development, telemedicine and workforce development.

Ms. DeLeon brought attention to Page 2 of the excerpt plan. In the State of the State address of 2011, the governor said that Nevada needs to drive investment, which is what the NBTF, along with Connected Nation and Connect Nevada, has done through the federally funded project period, which ends in January. The NBTF will be looking for funding to continue to drive that investment.

Mr. Brent Legg: Referred to the excerpt plan, which he reiterated is taken from a 126-page document that is going to be rolled out at the NACO Conference in Ely and will be available online. The excerpt plan is approximately 18 pages and cites many local initiatives and projects.

The chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) made an announcement today regarding the federal E-rate program, which provides the most significant amount of funding toward school and library broadband. The FCC initiative is for an increase to the cap for E-rate, which has not changed in 18 years. If passed, this would translate to a permanent increase of the fund of about \$1.5 billion, to \$3.9 billion a year, indexed to inflation, and be in effect for the 2015-2016 funding cycle.

The FCC announcement underscores the ongoing need for collaboration and coordination among state agencies, local school districts and other local entities that would benefit from increased broadband access. An underlying broadband infrastructure is necessary to support a one-to-one statewide initiative. Some school districts struggle with broadband access. This news highlights in real, tangible terms the need for an ongoing office of broadband coordination, which was the number one recommendation in the broadband plan.

Mr. Legg brought attention to the excerpt plan and highlighted items that could be further leveraged by the FCC announcement. He asked the attendees for their support as they enter into the spring legislative session to ask the legislature to set up the Office of Broadband Coordination.

Ms. DeLeon: Asked the attendees to review the projects in the excerpt plan. Support and coordination at all levels is resident in the quality and diversity of the projects.

Mr. Alan Medeiros: Brought attention to the example on Page 51, which talks about the creation of a multi-county broadband purchasing consortium among counties. This is a good example of the type of local initiative that could be leveraged to do more than the sum of its parts. The potential of increased E-rate subsidies is an excellent opportunity to leverage an existing program to bring it to the next level.

Ms. DeLeon: Asked for questions or comments.

Chairman White: Thanked Ms. DeLeon and Mr. Legg for their presentation. He asked what specifically they will be asking for in the coming legislative session. **Ms. DeLeon:** Replied that their proposal is to establish an office of broadband coordination, which would continue staffing time put toward broadband. A staff would continue to work with the providers to get information to update the broadband availability map, which is currently updated quarterly and is proposed to be updated annually. The office of coordination would also coordinate among project managers and agency heads, for example, to pool resources and decrease costs. She highlighted the necessity for private-public partnership between the government and providers, particularly for rural areas, to create economies of scale. They are looking for legislative agreement that this importantly underscores and provides support for governmental efficiency and community economic development. She said they are asking for \$482,000 a year. **Mr. Legg:** Reiterated that the office would continue the broadband infrastructure mapping. They want to conduct an effort to understand where the infrastructure exists, how it changes over time and how it can be further leveraged into community opportunities.

Chairman White: Thanked Ms. DeLeon and Mr. Legg and asked for further questions.

Dr. Kimberly Vidoni: First asked for copies of the handout. **Ms. DeLeon:** Stated she would send a copy of the entire plan. **Dr. Vidoni:** Wondered what role either the department and/or the commission could play in the coordination that was previously discussed. **Mr. Legg:** Responded that he would like to broaden the current scope of the NBTF and re-orient it to include all stakeholders, including the

Department of Education. Nevada Ready 21 is an essential element of broadband in the state. Other adjustments would be made to the NBBTF membership to fully encompass, for example. **Ms. DeLeon:** Added that there is a representative from the Department of Education on the NBTF, but if the Office of Broadband Coordination (OBC) is established, they would like to have a representative specifically to address one-to-one and that sector's needs in tandem with the current K-12 representative.

Mr. Dale Erquiaga: Thanked Ms. DeLeon and Mr. Legg for their presentation. He asked for clarification that this proposal is not in the agency request of the Department of Administration but is floating to be picked up as a governor request or for a legislator to pick up. **Ms. DeLeon:** Confirmed this. She said they are having conversations with other departments in other sectors because it touches a lot of areas.

Chairman White: Thanked Ms. DeLeon and Mr. Legg for speaking. He commented on the importance of their work.

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON COMMISSION'S DIGITAL LEARNING DAY AWARD RFA

Chairman White: Turned the discussion over to Dr. Vidoni.

Dr. Vidoni: Referred to the packet containing the draft RFA for the 2015 commission's award of excellence, the third year of the award. This is essentially the same as the previous RFA. She asked for input or approval on the RFA.

Chairman White: Asked for initial questions for Dr. Vidoni.

Commissioner Nick Poulson: Asked for clarification about confusing information in reference to the meeting at which successful applicants will be honored. **Dr. Vidoni:** Thanked Commissioner Poulson for pointing out a typo. Her belief is that the honorific meeting is in October, and she will make the necessary changes.

Mr. Maurins: Asked for a refresher on how this is publicized amongst the teachers and administrations. **Dr. Vidoni:** Replied that the information is posted on the website, and all Ed Tech directors from across the states are alerted via email. Many times the Ed Tech directors themselves make the nominations.

A Commissioner moved to approve the Digital Learning Day Award RFA with the changes regarding the conflicting meeting dates. Commissioner Irene Chachas seconded. Motion carried.

7. DISCUSSION ON DIGITAL LEARNING DAY ACTIVITIES

Chairman White: Turned the discussion over to Dr. Vidoni.

Dr. Vidoni: Stated that in addition to the award, the school districts and NDE are also involved in Digital Learning Day, which takes places on February 5. In 2013, students were brought to the legislative building, where there was a showcase of classroom digital learning. She would like to do something similar in the future and is working with a small group of district representatives, who came up with a number of ideas. A group of teachers are planning a fourth- through seventh-grade civics lesson, implemented via Skype in real time in classrooms across the state on February 5. They hope to schedule legislators to interact with students in real time. In the foyer, high school students will be orchestrating the technology involved in this lesson. Also in the foyer, Dr. White and other commission volunteers will be available to answer questions about Nevada Ready 21 and other relevant topics.

Leslie Wilson and Mike Gielniak will be available to answer questions about One to One and classroom learning and classroom technology integration. Cisco and Intel, who are sponsoring Ms. Wilson and Mr. Gielniak's presence on that day, will have representatives available to answer questions about how they facilitate classroom technology integration. Dr. Vidoni asked for commission volunteers for the morning of February 5 and for questions or comments.

Chairman White: Expressed how much he enjoyed the experience two years ago. He was amazed to see the interest and involvement of the students. He encouraged participation.

Mr. Erquiaga: Suggested that since the Association of School Superintendents meet that that day, they might be able to incorporate it into their day. **Dr. Vidoni:** Thanked Mr. Erquiaga and said she hoped they could get them on the agenda.

8. UPDATE ON PROGRESS SINCE LAST MEETING ON NEVADA READY 21

Chairman White: Turned the discussion over to Mr. Erquiaga.

Mr. Erquiaga: Reminded the attendees that they discussed the dollar value of the Nevada Ready 21 at the last meeting in September. Today's proposal is a similar situation to the OBC. They discussed a figure of approximately \$21 million per year per grade, which is not included in the agency budget. He said he is not included in the agency request but with the budget office, for further consideration. The governor's recommended budget will not be announced until the State of the State on January 15.

Chairman White: Since Mr. Erquiaga was not in attendance when the prior dollar value was discussed, he asked how he views those sorts of figures. **Mr. Erquiaga:** Said that what he appreciates about the plan is that it is all inclusive and is not a hardware plan. The number is significant for Nevada but manageable from a budgetary perspective, since it is scalable over multiple years and can be viewed a grade band at a time. After December 3, they will know what money is available, and that will provide a better understanding and forecast about all education funding requests. He said he appreciated the work of the task force to make such a scalable approach with an all-inclusive number. Also, this plan is not simply provision of hardware to students, which is criticized nationwide. **Chairman White:** Gave kudos to those who put together the plan.

9. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Chairman White: Again thanked everybody for their participation and collaboration.

Senator Mo Denis: Thanked the commission for their work and said it will be helpful for the legislature.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman White: Asked for any public comments.

Mr. Legg: Stated that he administered on behalf of AT&T their \$100 million commitment to provide free, off-campus, mobile connectivity for 50,000 students across the country over three years. They are providing not only LT connectivity to students, but also AT&T is partnering with third-party companies to provide tablet devices to students, as well as training through teacher professional development. This is much of what the Nevada Ready 21 plan calls for, but unfortunately there has been no applicant from Nevada for that grant opportunity. He asked to spread the word about the program. Through three award phases, approximately 20 school districts nationally will be named to participate in this program.

The application deadline for the third award phase has yet to be set but will likely be in April 2015. Successful application would reduce the cost of the Nevada Ready 21 plan. More information is available, and applications can be submitted, at www.connectednation.org/attaspire.

11. SELECT DATE FOR NEXT MEETING AND POSSIBLE TOPICS

Chairman White: Stated that no date has been set for the next commission meeting, but Monday afternoons seem to work well for most attendees. He asked for input. **Dr. Vidoni:** Stated she needed volunteers for reviewers before March, so February would be a good time for a meeting. **Chairman White:** Suggested February 9, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. **Senator Denis:** Said that he might have a conflict with his legislative duties. **Mr. Erquiaga:** Also stated he has a possible conflict during the legislative session. **Chairman White:** Suggested Monday, January 26, which is before the start of the legislative session. The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 26 at 1:00 p.m.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman White: Entertained a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Chachas moved to adjourn.

DRAFT